

SENATOR FIRSCH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the body. I just passed out letters, one from our Chief Skinner, who is Chief of Police in Omaha, and I think it's pretty self-explanatory. The Chief said, as a general rule, police departments utilize the following positive identifiers to confirm an individual's identity: full name, date of birth, Social Security number, driver's license, or other photo identification, and any other documentation which will substantiate that an individual is whom he or she claims to be. Taking away the use of the Social Security number removes the ability for the department to confirm the identity of an individual with a common name. And in Omaha, believe me, there are a lot of people with the same common name. But the Social Security number is, indeed, unique. And I go on with the letter, in addition, someone utilizing a false identification normally has to either create a Social Security number or learn the Social Security number of another individual before that number can be used effectively. And these Social Security numbers are utilized not only in citations, but also in arrest records, crime reports, driver's licenses, in other states I might add, and a variety of other forms of documentation of incidents by the law enforcement community. It is a critical area and we encourage that any language relating to the exclusion of the use of the Social Security number in LB 1905 (sic) be removed from it before it is presented to the floor for a vote. Now, Senator Brown illustrated very well the use that that is having actually in Omaha. But I want to tell you, that is not just an Omaha request. If you will look at the other sheet of paper that I passed out, it is from Robert Jatczak who is president of the Police Chiefs Association of Nebraska. And he states in his letter that LB 905 includes passages that would eliminate an officer's ability to even ask for a person's Social Security number. A Social Security number most generally is used as an identification of a person for various reasons, i.e. to identify persons with similar names and/or descriptions, who may be wanted or in processing of background checks. If you can't ask for it up front, and this is my own words, you can't ask for it in the background check. Some states, including Iowa, Kansas, and South Dakota, use the person's Social Security number as the driver's license number. In the event an officer contact with a citizen from one of those states, the officer could not ask for the Social Security number as a personal identifier of the person whether they had the driver's license or not. I would, therefore, ask you not support LB 905 as it